

Injection well license sought, hearing set

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

State and city officials are gearing up for another round in the long fight to stop Environmental Disposal Systems (EDS) from pumping hazardous waste into two injection wells located in Romulus, according to State Sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor).

The Birmingham-based company applied for a hazardous waste management facility operating license for aboveground storage and treatment facilities from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

According to MDEQ, the operating license is required under the hazardous waste management section of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, for EDS to begin operation of the facility located on Citrin Drive.

Before MDEQ officials make a final decision on the

operating license, they are seeking public comment on the matter. The public comment period for the draft operating license will end Sept. 23. Written comments must be postmarked by that date as well.

In addition, a public hearing has been set for 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 9 at the Romulus High School auditorium.

According to MDEQ officials, the purpose of the hearing is to allow interested persons to submit comments to help them make a decision on the license.

"We will definitely be at the public hearing," said Basham. "The fight to stop EDS from pumping this waste into our ground is far from over. We will continue to do everything we can to stop this from happening."

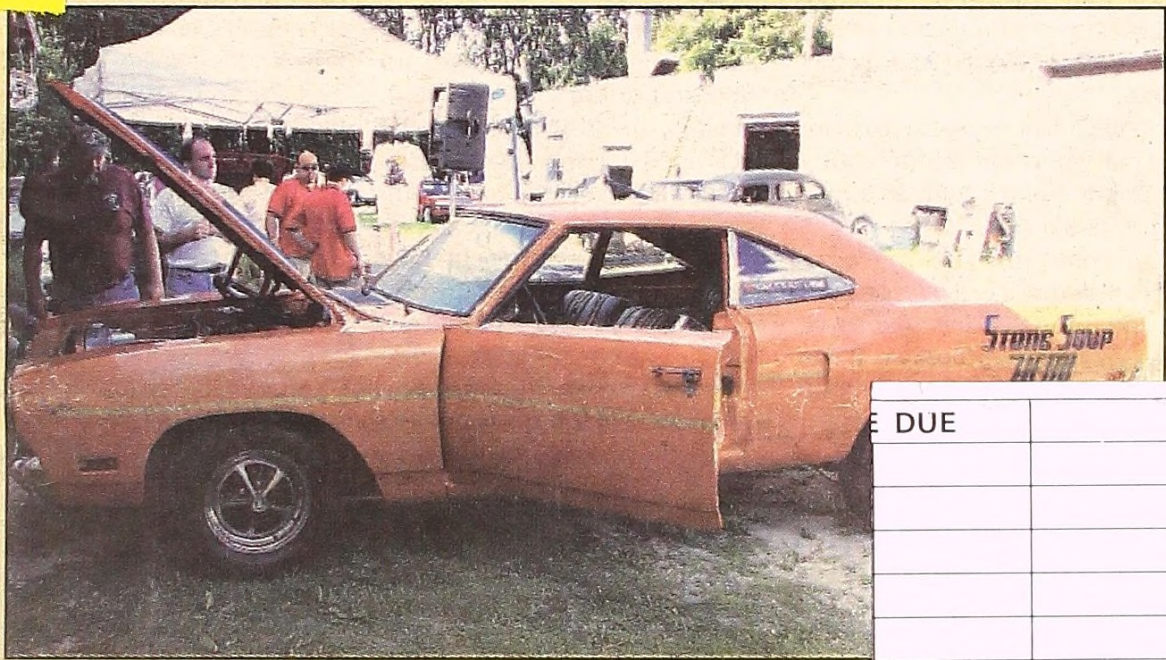
The final decision will come from the MDEQ and will be based on several factors, like the adequacy of the EDS application, the requirements for the design, construction and operation of the facility and whether the applicant has obtained all other environmental permits and

approvals necessary for the operation to begin, a spokesman said.

State and local representatives have tried to stop EDS from pumping hazardous material into the wells for more than 12 years.

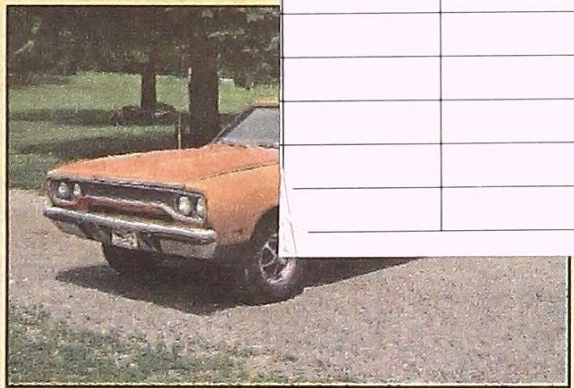
Environmental Disposal Systems, a company that disposes of hazardous waste, would use the wells, which are about 4,200 feet below the surface, to hold hazardous liquid wastes-including acids and heavy metals like mercury, chromium and nickel.

The draft operating license, fact sheet and application is available for review by the public at the Romulus Public Library, 11121 Wayne Road, Romulus. Requests, comments and questions on the issue should be addressed to Steven Sliver, Hazardous Waste and Radiological Protection Section, Waste and Hazardous Materials Division, MDEQ, P.O. Box 30241, Lansing, Mich., 48909, or by email at slivers@michigan.gov.



Stone soup?

Residents got a chance to see the famed Stone Soup Hemi last week, when it was on display at All-American Auto Upholstery in Romulus. The car is the brainchild of the 94.7 WCSX morning program. They have mobilized their listeners across the Metro Detroit area to help them rebuild this 1970 Plymouth Road Runner from the ground up. When the car is finished it will be raffled off with all proceeds going directly to the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan.



2 historic barns find new home in Maybury State Park

Scott Spielman
Editor

"They made it safe and sound," said Farmer John Beemer, who will oversee operations at the living farm at Maybury State Park.

Behind him, two gigantic century-old barns rested on makeshift stands near their final destination. The structures made the slow move to the park Saturday morning. It took about 6 hours to complete the 3-mile trek from their previous location, a developing, upscale subdivision in Novi.

The move got under way at about 6 a.m. Saturday at the sub-

division, north of 10 Mile Road off Napier Road. The Toll Brothers Construction Co. is developing a large tract of land there and the decaying barns, out of place amongst the condominiums and \$1 million homes, would have otherwise been destroyed. The developer donated the much-needed barns to the Northville Community Foundation, which is spearheading the campaign to rebuild the farm at Maybury and make sure it has enough funds to keep going, in perpetuity.

The journey may have been short, but was not without obstacles, according to Sgt. Terry Whitfield of the Novi Police Department, who was coordinat-

ing traffic-control efforts on the Novi side of the border. The first segment of the move took place over rough, gravel roads along a scenic stretch of thoroughfare tightly bordered by tall leafy trees. The trees had to be pulled back and trimmed.

The largest obstacle, though, were the high-powered electrical lines that crossed Napier Road just west of Community Sports Park in Novi. The road rose to a small hill there and the power lines had to be moved. That meant they had to be shut off at the source - near New York City - which cut off power to a sizable

See Park, page 3

34th Court work programs benefit local communities

Ashley Lawrence
and Andrea King
Staff Writers

The 34th District Court work program has officially been kicked up a notch this summer, according to Judge Brian Oakley.

"We have had the work program for years in one form or another," said Oakley. "But, now we have re-designed it so that it is really doing good in the communities we serve."

In the past, those who were ordered to do community service by way of the work programs may have been getting off easy. Oakley said there was no one in charge of making sure that the workers completed the time they were ordered to work.

"We may have ordered someone to do 2 days of community service and they would go out to wherever we sent them for the 2 days, but only work 3 hours each day," said Oakley. "We didn't have any control over what the workers were doing. That was where we were running into the problem."

Oakley said that he, Chief Judge Tina Brooks-Green and Judge David Parrott got together and decided to make the guidelines for the work program more detailed, to ensure that the court would have a record of what the workers in the program were actually doing.

After the guidelines were set, Oakley said the court decided to appoint someone to oversee the workers in the program. Jerry Rohn, a court employee, was given that job.

"We went ahead and changed his schedule so now he works Thursday through Monday," said Oakley. "With that new schedule, Rohn is able to go out to the sites

with the workers on the weekends, so we know that they are completing the correct number of hours."

The new system has also given the court the opportunity to complete a number of special projects in Romulus and Belleville.

The court has already sent workers out to help the department of public works (DPW) in both cities.

"What happens a lot of the time is that the DPW is so bogged down with projects that a lot of smaller projects don't get done," said Oakley. "Now, we are able to send our workers out to help the DPW with those smaller projects."

This summer the work program went out to Elmer Johnson Park in Romulus and cleaned it up and painted it for children to have a nice place to play, said Oakley.

The work program will also be used to help set up or clean up festivals within the cities, as well as to help with historical projects.

Oakley said the work program recently made a visit to the historical Peter Bird house on Wayne Road.

"We went out there and helped the Romulus Historical Society clean up inside the house," said Oakley. "We took out more than 40 yards of trash from the basement alone. It is just another way that we can help improve the communities we serve."

Keith Boc, department of public services director for Belleville, said that for almost a year now, the city has used workers from the program year-round to provide help in the public ser-

See Program, page 3

Schools of Choice law prompts district recruitments

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The 8-year-old Schools of Choice initiative has forced Michigan school districts to compete with one another for students – and the foundation grant dollars that come with each enrollment.

For successful, moneyed school districts, the implications have been negligible. But for some older, urban districts forced to vie against other area districts, marketing campaigns have become part of the landscape: Luring students from district to district is akin to survival.

The Schools of Choice law was approved by the state legislature in 1996. The goal of the law was to improve the academic performance of school districts by forcing a climate of achievement. The law was also intended to provide parents with some options if they weren't comfortable with the schools in the neighborhood.

But for some districts – many of which are struggling to maintain expected programs while losing several thousands of dol-

lars due to an exodus of students – the steady loss of much-needed revenue is making the possibility of rebuilding and stabilizing an educational and financial foundation even more remote, according to school officials.

For the Inkster-Edison Schools, increasing enrollment for the 2004 – 2005 school year is the number one priority.

"If we don't get these numbers up, we're looking at a pretty bad situation," said financial manager Howard Morris. "We could be looking at layoffs. We were able to avoid that last (school) year, but if we can't recruit students, we could have to make some painful cuts."

Last year, despite marketing efforts, the Inkster-Edison School District failed to add 150 students, which meant the district had to trim \$1 million from the \$15 million budget. The district receives \$7,000 in foundation grant funds per student.

Larger districts are not immune from the struggle. Wayne-Westland Community Schools Superintendent Gregory Baracy said that although the dis-

trict does not take part in Schools of Choice, they do market to their own residents, to let them know they're better off staying put.

"We're facing more and more competition from school districts all the time," he said. "Districts like Taylor and Garden City are actively recruiting for students; they're close to Wayne-Westland. 'The financial hardships more and more school districts are going to face forces them to participate in a schools of choice program, just to survive.'"

Baracy said money is going to be a big problem: For the 2004 – 2005 school year, the district is looking at a \$10 million deficit.

"We're going to have to make some tough choices. We'll be talking to residents to see what kind of programs they want us to save. It will be difficult, but a lot of other districts are already making those types of cuts," he said.

Wayne-Westland Community School officials estimate about 500 students that live in the district are attending charter schools or are taking advantage of Schools of Choice in area districts.

"That might not seem like a lot... but when you multiply it by \$7,200, it's more than \$3.5 million," Baracy said.

Intensifying the drive to recruit students has put pressure on the three districts that serve the City of Inkster because of six charter schools that have proliferated.

There are a lot of good things going on in Wayne-Westland. We want to make sure we get the word out to parents.

Superintendent Gregory Baracy

"The number of charter schools has made it more difficult," said Manny Wilson, the Inkster-Edison Schools development director.

But if schools aren't happy with the changes brought forth by Schools of Choice reforms, parents certainly are: Since 1996, the number of school districts taking parting the program more than doubled from 140 to 291, according to statistics from the Michigan Department of Education. The number of students taking advantage of Schools of Choice rose from only 5,610 in 1996 to about 48,000 for the 2003-04 school year, according to statistics.

Holding onto students via marketing initiatives takes up time and dollars, Wilson said. Last year, the district produced a slick video that was shown on the community cable station and at public meetings. This year, district officials intend to pound the pavement at several public events and churches to encourage parents to send their children to Inkster-Edison Schools.

Baracy said touting a district's

strong points – like recent improvements to facilities and rising Michigan Education Assessment Program scores – is a priority. "There are a lot of good things going on in Wayne-Westland," he said. "We want to make sure we get the word out to parents."

But issues with the Schools of Choice program still abound. Several communities have turned their backs on bond campaigns because they don't want to pay the additional taxes from millage requests when a district seeks students from outside the community.

Most experts agree that it's too soon to measure the success of Schools of Choice, but one effect is clear: It's going to be very difficult for some districts – even those that continue to boost academic achievement – to compete.

"It's not caused by anything the school district may have done," Baracy said. "The state has frozen our revenue. It has to change."

(Editor Scott Spielman contributed to this report.)

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Howard Morris

Man's best friend to 'show off'

Adrea King
Staff Writer

The dog days of summer will soon be coming to Belleville.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) will "let the dogs out" at the Wayne County Fairgrounds Aug. 27 through 29 for a dog show and competition.

The shows, hosted by the Livonia and Oakland County Kennel Clubs, will open at 8 a.m. at the fairgrounds in Van Buren Township. Along with the shows, special events are planned throughout the weekend. Admission is free and parking is \$5 per car. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Michigan State University, the Purebred Dog Endowment Fund and the Morris Animal Foundation.

Show Chair Arden Shaw said that more than 4,000 pure breed dogs will be showcased from owners around the U.S. and Canada including Lynn Coleman, a Doberman breeder from Belleville.

Judges from across the U.S. will begin their duties for the show to award prizes for Best in Show, Best Bred, Best Puppy, Junior Showmanship and more.

"People get the chance to see breeds that they might not be able to otherwise, but there is so much more than just the dog show," she said.

Events include: a dog-carting demonstration and clinic, agility course demonstration, rally demonstration, AKC Canine Good Citizen test, canine heart and eye testing health clinic and rescue groups from area shelters. There will not be any dogs for sale, but rescue and breeder information from both the Oakland County and Livonia Kennel Club members will be available, according to Shaw.

"It's a perfect opportunity to observe and meet various breeds and talk with dog owners and handlers in an unstructured environment," she said. "The whole family can come out to spend the day at the show."

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Police seized \$500,000 worth of automobile wheel parts stolen from this Romulus truck lot this week. Two suspects are in custody in the theft.

Inkster police seize truckload of auto rims

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The manager of a Romulus transfer company says he owes a debt of gratitude to an alert Inkster resident for calling the police when he noticed an unusually large containing hundreds of stolen tire rims.

The homeowner, who wished to remain anonymous, saw a large truck parked in front of his neighbor's house on Grandview Street Wednesday. He immediately called police. When officers arrived at the location, they discovered two men moving stainless steel and aluminum rims intended for an area Ford Motor Co. assembly plant into a house.

"Officers asked for a manifest, anything that might indicate where the stuff was headed to," said Inkster Police Det. Anthony Abdallah. "But they were not

able to produce one."

The men, James Williams, 45, and Curtis Davis, 34, were taken into custody on the spot, Abdallah said.

When police called C. Alex Howard, the general manager of MCSI Motor Carrier Specialists on Ecorse and Middlebelt Roads in Romulus, he was astounded by the fact that one of the men arrested was one of his drivers.

"At first I told them all of my trucks were in the yard," he said. "Then (police) told me they had one in Inkster, and I was surprised. The driver (Williams) involved had never been in any trouble at all. The caller was a hero in this case."

The rims, which after an audit were determined to be worth about half a million dollars, were seized and later returned to their rightful owners. Howard said that had the rims not been returned, his com-

pany would have to pay for them. Inkster Police Det. Lt. Kevin Smith said police believe the pair was dropping off the rims at several locations.

"They went around collecting stuff from others making a deliveries to various locations," not all of the (rims) that were missing were on the truck."

Both Williams and Davis were charged at the 22nd District Court with several counts of larceny by conversion and embezzlement. They are being held in lieu of \$100,000 bond each. Those charges were for 30 rims discovered in the home. The charges will be amended to include the rest of the rims.

Judge Sylvia A. James set a preliminary court examination date for Aug. 26.

Neither man had a criminal record prior to the incident. If convicted, the men could face 15 years behind bars.

Local man questioned in murder investigation

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Inkster Police investigators and agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) are questioning a Romulus man in the deadly arson-robbery that claimed the life of a business owner.

At precisely the time that memorial services were taking place for 54-year-old Clyde Alexander, the co-owner of Irv's Gun Range, police picked up the 20-year-old at an area home in Inkster. He is being held on warrants from Wayne County Friend of the Court and an unrelated warrant from the City of Dearborn Heights, according to Inkster Police Cmdr. Greg Hill.

Police took the man into custody after an anonymous tipster called police to inform them the man was selling guns from his home, police said.

"We're not calling him a suspect," said Hill. "We're just questioning him at this point." The man's name is being withheld, Hill added.

The inferno that engulfed the gun shop began on Tuesday, Aug. 3 at about 10:30 p.m., according to police reports. After firefighters worked for about 4 hours to contain the blaze out, a body was discovered in what used to be the building office.

An autopsy later determined that the body was Alexander. The cause of death is listed as smoke inhalation, according to Steve Brown of the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office.

Police believe Alexander was the victim of a robbery, Hill said.

Investigators indicated that about 40 guns were taken from the scene.

Hill said that although only one person is being questioned at this time, it is unlikely one person acted alone in perpetrating the robbery-murder.

"I think in all likelihood that we're looking for more than one person," Hill said.

Accelerants at the scene indicated that an assailant likely started the fire to cover up the attack, police said. Trace amounts of accelerant were discovered at the scene.

Lonise Alexander, Clyde's wife, said she is still in shock and is hopeful police and ATF agents will be able make a break in the case.

"My whole family is just so upset over this because it just didn't need to happen," she said. "There's just not excuse to do anybody like this."

About 25 ATF agents throughout the duration of the investigation are assisting Inkster investigators, police said. The reward being offered for information that leads to an arrest was increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000, police said.

Vera Fedorak, a special agent and public information officer with the ATF said her agency is working hard to track the guns taken from the store.

"Some records were recovered at the scene," she said. "But we're working on getting a list of his inventory."

Anyone with information about this case is asked to call the Inkster detective bureau at (313) 563-9856 or the Detroit ATF at (313) 259-8050.

Romulus schools set to start classes

Andrea King
Staff Writer

A complete schedule of the upcoming school year will be released soon, according to school officials.

Contract negotiations between the district and the Romulus Education Association/Wayne County Michigan Education

Association have to be finalized first, they said.

The start of the school year has already been set, however. The first day of school for students in the Romulus Community Schools will be Wednesday, Sept. 1.

Students will attend full days on both Sept. 1 and Sept. 2. The schools will be closed beginning Sept. 3 in observance of Labor

Day weekend and classes will resume Tuesday, Sept. 7.

Negotiations between the Romulus Education Association/ Wayne County Michigan Education Association and the Romulus Board of Education are still ongoing, but both sides are confident that an agreement will be reached soon, said school officials.

Park

FROM PAGE 1

portion of the area.

"I was a little worried about that, because we only had a half hour window," Whitfield said. "But we made it."

After that, it was pretty smooth sailing, according to Shari Peters, executive director of the Northville Community Foundation. The move got caught up for about an hour in front of the park, where additional trees had to be further trimmed, but that was the only other delay.

The move brought crowds of people to the side of the road.

They sat in groups, watched from the park on bikes or even horseback.

"This is so exciting," said Debbie Brown, who sat astride a 9-year-old Missouri Foxtrotter named Foxy. Brown is a member of the Maybury Trail Riders, a 501c3 non-profit that volunteers time to keep up the trails at the park. Most of the group lives nearby and frequent the trails at the 1,000-acre park.

"I'm glad they're fixing up an old barn instead of building a new pole barn," she said.

Whitfield said he was also glad to see the 146-year-old barns go to good use. They had merely been a target for juveniles.

"I used to chase kids out of

there all the time," he said.

Peters said the barns could be ready for use as early as November, but a lot of work needed to be done before that. Foundations must be poured and the barns moved to rest on top of them. The barnwrights would come in an repair the interior and exterior of the structures. Finally, they need to be painted.

Peters received some good news about that last week, though. The Sherman Williams company will donate all the paint needed.

Meanwhile, the fund-raising efforts are still going on.

To donate or get involved in the effort, call the foundation at (248) 374-0200.

Program

FROM PAGE 1

vices department.

"On an average we get seven people every Thursday that come out to Belleville," he said. "They begin working at 8 a.m. and leave at 2 p.m. Anything in the department that we need done is what they work on."

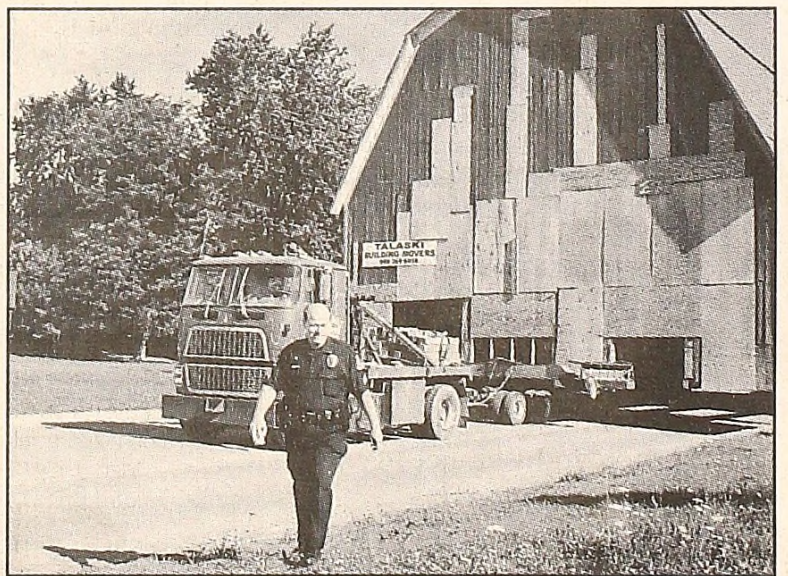
The court also sends a bus through Belleville and Van Buren Township with about 10-

15 workers.

Boc said that the work duties list includes landscaping around the city, painting and other departmental concerns. He commended the workers for a job well done.

"It helps us out a lot," he said. "It sure is working great for Belleville and we hope we can utilize it for awhile."

Oakley said the court has also asked the cities to put together a Christmas wish list for projects that need to be done over the upcoming months.



The two barns at Maybury State Park will have one more journey to make - about 40 feet away onto concrete foundations, once they are poured.

Library celebrates end of summer reading program

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Fischer Library in Belleville recently closed the book on the final chapter of the annual summer reading program.

The program—Discover New Trails—wrapped up another summer of reading with more than 250 people who attended the awards ceremony, according to Kelly Skinner, youth services librarian.

Despite the dreary weather, Skinner said that the excitement was high over the special prizes drawings, the number of books read and the unexpected appearance of the Knights of Saint Michael Motorcycle Ministry.

"Two members from the motorcycle club braved the morning rain to bring their custom motorcycles for the kids to enjoy," she said.

For preschool children, the Read-to-Me program invited children aged 3-6 to enjoy the variety

of stories crafts, music and more. Each week children who checked out books received a prize or handout with a puzzle, game or a craft. Skinner said that 119 preschoolers enjoyed six weeks of entertainment programs including Music Lady Beverly Meyer of Belleville.

"She is always a favorite," said Skinner. "We had 180 participants come to see her."

Elementary school children were given incentives to read for pleasure and take advantage of events. Children followed the 'reading trail' by keeping track of the books they read. Afterward, they received a lottery ticket for each day they went to the library and made an entry in the book record.

Mark Rosenthal, of Belleville, brought his exotic animals into the library, which was a favorite of the elementary school children, said Skinner.

"He was our biggest attendance

*He was our biggest attendance for that program.
He brought in all the exotic animals that you
would find on the trail. It was great.*

Kelly Skinner

for that program," she said. "He brought in all the exotic animals that you would find on the trail. It was great."

Skinner said that 181 elementary school age children read at least 10 books during the 6-week program.

The Teen Summer Reading Program for middle school and high school students also proved rewarding. It allowed for children who were past participants of the summer reading program to continue on with the rewards and entertainments programs that went along with reading, said Skinner.

Prizes included the grand prize drawing of two Cedar Point tickets donated by the Canton Branch office of AAA and the special participant drawing of personal CD players funded through the Library Services and Technology grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Children also received prizes donated from Skatin' Station II, Michigan Friends of Education, White Castle, Detroit Shock, McCoy's Sports Grill in Belleville, Belleville Frosty Boy and the Friends of the Fred C. Fischer Library.

Haley Berry and Sarah Katona

won the grand prize of two Cedar Point tickets.

In total, the registration for all three programs drew in 491 participants, an increase of 56 percent from last year. Attendance for all the programs was 2,181, which was a 30 percent increase, according to Skinner.

She added that the program would not have been so successful without the many volunteers including: Rachel Beagan, Jan Black, Dominique Booker, Elyse Losen, Joe Monte, Charlotte Price, Katie Price, Pat Ryback, Lee Upton, the Friends of the Fred C. Fischer Library and Wal-Mart.

"This year's program was a great success with enthusiastic participants and a full house for almost every program offered," she said. "I want to thank all the great kids and their parents who have made the 'Discover New Trails' a lot of fun, with the most participation ever at the Fischer Library."

County Fair arrives in Belleville

Belleville will host the Wayne County Fair Aug. 17-Aug. 21.

The fair will include daily events such as a carnival, animal exhibits, pony rides, a petting zoo and other activities. Free events include the tuff trucks show, 4x4 truck pulls, mini modified tractor pulls, a demolition derby and mud bog races.

Hours for the fair are from 3-11 p.m. Tuesday, from 2 until 11 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 1 p.m. until midnight Friday and from 11 a.m. until midnight Saturday.

There is a \$3 gate fee per person and it is located at the I-94 and Belleville Road off the Northwest Service Drive on Quirk Road.

City of Romulus Public Notice DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

A meeting of the Downtown Development Authority Citizen's Advisory Council will be held on Wednesday, August 18, 2004 at 10:30 a.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174. The Purpose of the meeting will be to review the draft amendments to the Downtown Development Plan for the DDA District. This is an Open Meeting. Downtown residents and others are encouraged to attend and will be provided opportunity to speak. This notice is given pursuant to ACT 197 of the Public Acts of 1975.

Maria Lambert, Director
Romulus Downtown Development Authority

Publish: August 12, 2004

CITY OF ROMULUS REQUEST TO RECEIVE BIDS BID 04/05-07

THREE YEAR (3) CROSS CONNECTION PROGRAM

The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking bids from qualified vendors for the above service.

(1) Qualified individuals and firms wishing to submit bids must do so on forms provided by the City. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained from Lynn A. Conway, Purchasing Coordinator, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, by calling (734) 955-4568 or by Emailing: lconway@ci.romulus.mi.us

(2) Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes and returned to the City Clerk's Office no later than 2:00 pm, Tuesday, August 24, 2004. At that time said bids would be publicly opened and read.

BID ENVELOPES MUST BE ADDRESSED:

CITY OF ROMULUS CLERKS OFFICE
BID 04/05-07 - THREE YEAR (3) CROSS CONNECTION PROGRAM
11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan

(3) The right is reserved to reject any and all bids and proposals and to waive technicalities.

Publish: August 12, 2004

CITY OF ROMULUS NOTICE OF A PUBLIC WORKSHOP MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The City of Romulus invites you to attend a public workshop on the updated Draft Master Plan to discuss ideas, concerns and expectations on community-wide issues before it is finalized.

The public workshop will be held on Thursday, August 26, 2004 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne, Romulus MI 48174-1485

Written comments or concerns may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Thursday, August 26, 2004, and should be addressed to Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP, City Planner, Economic Development Department, 11111 Wayne, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: August 12, 2004

CITY OF ROMULUS PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST FOR TAX ABATEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the Romulus City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, August 23, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174 to consider an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate pursuant to P.A. 198 of 1974, as amended, for Aerostar Manufacturing, 28275 Northline Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Land situated in the City of Romulus, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, described as:

That part of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 25, Town 3 South, range 9 East, City of Romulus, Wayne County, State of Michigan, described as: Beginning South 00°15'30"W Along the North-South 1/4 line, 60.00 Feet from the North 1/4 corner of said Section 25; thence continuing S 00°15'30"W. Along said North-South 1/4 line, 600.00 feet; thence S 88°58'18"E, 662.90 feet; thence S 00°1'42"W. 660.28 feet; thence S 88°56'45"E. 330.86 feet; thence N 00°24'47"E. 665.46 feet; thence N. 89°05'30"W. 149.51 feet; thence N 00°22'30"E. 595.64 feet to the South right-of-way line of Northline Road; thence N. 88°59'50" W. along said right-of-way line of Northline Road and parallel to the North section line 848.06 feet back to the place of beginning. This property is subject to an easement for the installation and maintenance of public utilities within the right-of-way of Harrison Road. Containing 16.7 acres and being subject to restrictions. Reservations, easements, right-of-way, zoning, Governmental Regulations, and matters visible, if any, upon or affecting said lands.

This is an open meeting, all interested citizens are invited to attend, and will be given an opportunity to comment on the proposal. Written comments may be forwarded no later than August 23, 2004 at 12 o'clock noon to the attention:

Linda R. Choate
City Clerk

Publish: August 12, 2004

OPINION

A wise decision

The proposed joint dispatch agreement between the City of Northville and Northville Township will face another hurdle next Thursday, when the proposal goes before the Northville Township Board of Trustees.

Northville City Council members approved the agreement recently and virtually all that's required is approval from the township board, and then a relatively quick transitional period. The township already has the facilities to accommodate the switch.

The city approval came after plenty of discussion and several scheduled open meetings, and rightfully so. This type of thing is an emotional issue, as anyone can see. It certainly was several years ago, when the City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township entered into a combined dispatch department; for some on both sides of that township border, it still is an emotional, sensitive issue.

There has been plenty of heated debate on the issue and those who are opposed to it have brought up some good points. Interestingly, they were among the same types of things brought up when the two Plymouths combined into a single dispatch center, too. The types of policing are different in a small, urban setting like the City of Plymouth or the City of Northville than they are in the larger, more rural townships. This is true, but that type of policing won't change; township officers won't suddenly be responding to calls in the city, and vice versa.

There is also a question of transport times; on the occasions when city police officers have to transport suspects to the lock up facilities, which would soon be located in the township. That's such a rare occurrence – let's face it: there isn't much in the way of serious crime in Northville – that the impact would scarcely be felt, however.

Those concerns have more weight than those that question the ability of the township dispatchers to handle the job. They are a dedicated, highly trained and skilled crew.

We think the proposal is a good one for several reasons. First and foremost, it helps out the City of Northville. It will save money, both in the short term and the long term. It allows them to be a part of a top-notch dispatch system equipped with the very latest in technology and training for little more than the cost of providing a few staff members. Capital expenditures will be reduced.

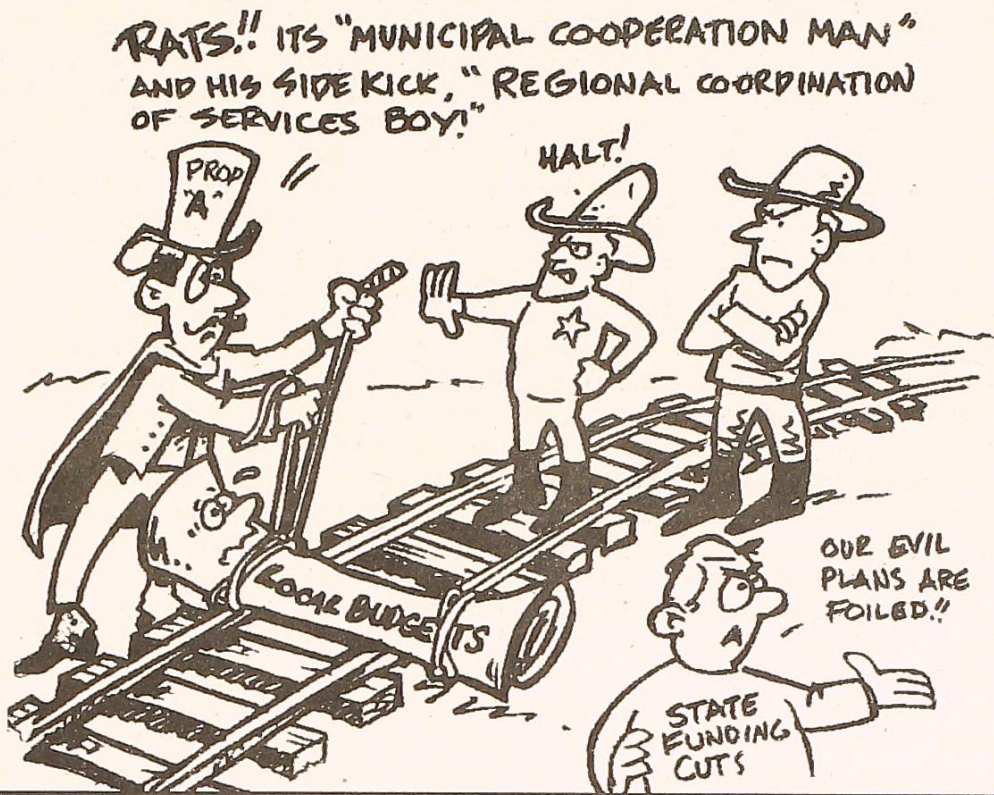
It also helps increase the number of patrols in the city, and provides more back up for working dispatchers. Right now, if a city dispatcher needs a break, he or she is often spelled by a road patrol officer. It's not a sound business practice, for one thing, and it essentially halves the road patrol when an officer comes in off the street.

Northville Township, quite frankly, is offering the City of Northville a better deal than the City of Plymouth received from Plymouth Township. In fact, the term used in some circles for the Northville agreement is a bit misleading; it's not a joint dispatch service. The dispatch department would be a service contracted by the township.

This is an emotional issue. It cuts to the fabric of the identity of the City of Northville, much the way it did to the City of Plymouth. The days where someone could enter city hall and find a dispatcher or police officer at virtually any time of day may be over, but that doesn't mean the actual service has diminished. They will still be out there, patrolling the streets, responding to calls.

This is a good agreement for both sides, once residents see the practicality of it. It also may be a precursor of similar cross-boundary agreements, too. There's nothing specifically in the works like that now, but given the state of municipal finance today, it most likely isn't far away. Older cities in particular will soon – if they haven't already – have to look at ways to combine services with their neighbors in an attempt to provide those services in an era when their resources are dwindling and costs are increasing.

Northville has always provided an example in such cross-municipality cooperation; it's seen in services like the parks and recreation department and senior services. We see no reason why that shouldn't continue to be the case.



The good guys win one, at last

Finally, the good guys won one.

That's what I remember thinking just after the Wayne City Council awarded Larry and Dawn Larson the former Taylor Doors building on Michigan Avenue.

That and 'Be careful what you wish for.'

The latter thought came because I had walked through the long-vacant structure and shook my head at the thought of the tremendous amount of work needed to turn it into an attractive, useable facility. It will take an extraordinary amount of work just to clean it out and start on the real task of making that building something suitable for the city.

That's part of the reason I had been in favor of tearing it down and constructing something new there. Every time I drove by it, I couldn't imagine the vision necessary to turn it into something I'd like to see – or at least wouldn't mind seeing – on the busy eastern approach to downtown Wayne.

The Larsons convinced me otherwise, though, without even knowing they had. Sure, the plans went a long way toward easing my fears that whoever bought the ugly box would just

repaint it and turn it into a thinly-disguised ugly box. It showed real thought, real effort, real attention to detail; an earnest desire to make their building as nice as it could be because it would tell customers and potential customers that they took a lot of pride in their business.

It also helped when I heard about the other plans there, particularly one of the late entries,

They paid attention to every nuance of dialogue about the property.

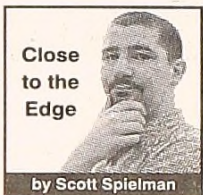
which showed a small strip mall – which was attractive, at least in the sense of strip malls. Signs from national stores like Starbucks were added into the computerized drawing, probably to entice city officials into thinking what could go in there. In reality, it only hammered something home to me: if the city had approved that site, they had no control over what eventually went into the retail plaza. Chances are, it wouldn't have been anything that we'd actually go out and seek for the city,

either. They only way they had any control over what happened there, in fact, was to be careful which proposal they eventually approved.

Those were some of the factors that caused me to change my mind about the building, but the biggest one came at an earlier meeting when I sat next to the Larsons and the issue was up for discussion. I didn't talk to them, or even introduce myself at that time, but their body language said it all. They were nervous, they were concerned. They paid attention to every nuance of dialogue about the property. I first got the feeling then that this wasn't something they could take or leave, this was something they wanted badly because it would be perfect for their operation. They could have moved their business anywhere, but the fact is that they wanted to stay in Wayne, where they also live.

Later, when I discovered that they had been interested in the site even before the city purchased it through tax-reversion laws, I wasn't surprised.

That's why in the end, I wasn't surprised when the city awarded it to them, rather than the other petitioners. I was glad, though, and I still am.



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

A passionate life is a healthy life

Ever met someone who was so passionate about what they do that it inspires you?

I've admired many of the great teachers in baseball's minor leagues who have a tremendous zeal for developing the younger players. They don't make much money and generally don't get a lot of credit for it, but they go about their work with great zest.

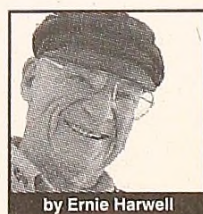
I'm sure you can think of people in your lives who go above and beyond the call of duty every day. It might be the cashier who greets you warmly every time

you're at the grocery store, a mailman who takes special care to make sure your package isn't damaged, or a teacher who spends extra time after school tutoring your child.

To me, they're great examples for all of us. If we approach each day with excitement and eagerness, I think we're more likely to have a positive outlook and see the good in life and in each other. And, in my book, that's one of the best ways to take care of your health before it's lonngggg gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four

decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.



by Ernie Harwell

JOURNAL
NEWSPAPERS



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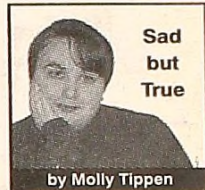
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A little 'attitude adjustment' seems in order



Sad but True
by Molly Tippen

It's difficult to imagine the hurdles faced by people who come to our rescue every day.

I know my perception of firefighters and police officers has changed since I started covering Inkster, and it has changed for the better.

Truth be told, I never much thought about officers and firefighters, even though I've needed both in the past.

But last week, the resolve and mettle of members of the Inkster Police Department and the Inkster Fire Department was put to the test when Irv's Gun Range, a local landmark, went up in flames in what now appears to be an attempt to cover up a homicide. The victim was Clyde Alexander, the co-owner of the shop for more than 25 years.

As firefighters worked to extinguish the blaze, many of them had

the unenviable task of searching for Alexander — a man many of them knew personally — as they tried to keep the unusually hot flames in check amid exploding live ammunition. Then police, who also knew the businessman — worked for days on end to sort out what happened only to discover the blaze was more sinister than originally thought.

Hours after the blaze was discovered, firefighters and police investigators — assisted by members of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms — emerged from the rubble exhausted. One firefighter, after working for about 6 hours straight, had to be taken to the hospital and treated.

It's times like these that we appreciate the work public safety personnel do in the community. But what about the rest of the time?

Two days before the fire, I was asking questions of elected officials in the city about the state of affairs in the community when the subject of the police department came up. Of all of the problems facing Inkster, one official chose to speak about pension benefits received by police officers, which he called a drain on the city, despite the fact that a lieutenant in Inkster earns what a patrol officer does in Westland.

And the fire department, after having the same number of people on the staff for about 10 years, is generally unable to convince anyone in the city administration that they are badly in need of additional staffing. More than one firefighter has privately told me that they believe it will take one of them getting seriously hurt or killed before the city frees up the funds to expand the 18-man staff.

Council members, at least publicly, are likely to laud the work both departments did during this trying time. However, police officers and firefighters have told me that when they need support for expanding the number of staffers and equitable pay increases, some elected officials are persona non grata.

Some elected officials have not pressed for union-city talks to progress; contracts move years behind schedule, and often than not end up in arbitration — leaving many wondering why they're sticking around.

The response, which I've heard more than once, is "Oh well, then let them quit." And that's a shame.

Elected officials are charged with the task of finding innovative solutions to problems facing the city so it can move forward. When

the council unanimously agreed to hire a new city manager, a substantial amount of the debate centered on comments made by counselors about how to bring city employees "in line" during interviews last weekend.

City employees — for a lot less than they would get in other communities — work hard to keep essential services up and running for residents. And they do a good job.

Members of the council need to find ways to improve the circumstances of employees all of the time, not just when something goes wrong. That means looking for funding to put more police on the streets and expand the number of employees in other departments.

Until the city is safe, Inkster will not be able to reinvent itself.

Pause the X-box and go vote

The ballots have been cast and counted, and they were few.

It's an old story, and I heard it so much growing up that I, like many students, came to equate elections with apathy—or, if a student was a little more knowledgeable, with contempt. It's a very old story: the youngest people who can vote, don't. But its not for lack of trying from our elders.

In grade school, I remember vaguely that they made us vote. They set apart recess time during which they ushered us down the hall into little booths for little mock elections. I don't recall having the option to opt out, nor do I remember who or what we voted for. But the details mattered less than our introduction to the ballot box. Nothing actually resulted from the process, though, and I wonder now if that impression lasted on us. It's curious, I think, telling kids right off that their vote changes only their morning schedule.

Of course, voting matters. By high school that was clear enough, and easy to recite. But most of my senior class missed out on the 2000 election. Just a year too young, we stood as helpless as our parents who saw their

own votes seem to disappear and the process crumble. We wondered: would that mess have turned out differently if my class had been a year older? No, wait—we wondered: will I be able to graduate if I fail this bio exam?

Elections are just too big for many 18-year-olds. Voting properly and responsibly requires research and perspective. It's a lot easier then, for young people, to dismiss the importance of an election. Laugh it off, spend your Tuesday playing outside, like we wanted to do in grade school.

Poor turnout seems the norm anyway—so much so that Secretary of State Terri Land estimated correctly that only 1.38 million out of 6.9 million would turn up Aug. 3. She was matter-of-fact about having only 20 percent show: "The voter turnout rate is not unusual for a primary," she said. "Turnout was higher in the areas of the state where there were highly competitive races, critical ballot issues or millages before the voters."

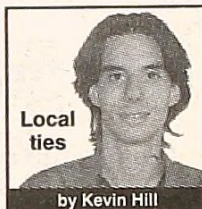
More people are expected to vote in the November presidential election—you might call that one highly competitive—and everyone is urging us tots to

pause the X-Box for an hour and vote. My elementary school teachers have been replaced by talking heads on MTV, nudging me toward the precinct. Their battle cry: One vote can make a difference!

But one vote, of course, can't turn the tide in an election. How many elections have been decided by just one person? Do you know, personally, any tie-breakers? Practically speaking, my vote matters no more than it did in school a dozen years ago.

The right to vote breeds another right, however, and one we hold most dear: the right to complain when things go wrong. What hypocrites are we who protest once it's out of our hands. On principle, we shouldn't be able to hold our officials responsible—in city, state or country—if we had nothing to say about them in the first place.

That's why we should all vote: A single person cannot determine an election, but certainly small armies of young voters can be convinced to get to the booth. And even if we do miss recess, we'll have plenty to whine about at lunch.



Local ties
by Kevin Hill

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD JULY 26, 2004 IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ROMULUS CITY HALL,
11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Pro Tem Debbie Romak.
Present: LeRoy Burcroff, Charles Miller, Michael Prybyla, Debbie Romak, William Wadsworth.
Excused: Randolph Gear, Mayor Pro Tem (Military Duty), William Crova
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Alan Lambert, Mayor
Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
Pamela Morrison Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Miller to approve the agenda as amended.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-319

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held July 12, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays -None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-320

3A. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Wadsworth to concur with the request from the Building, Safety & Engineering Department and recommendation from the Construction Board of Appeals authorize demolition of the following structures and removal of all debris as listed on Demolition List 04-01:

1. 35615 Bibbins - residential structure.
2. 6001 Crystal Lake - residential structure.
3. 35096 Ecorse - residential structure & barn.
4. 6565 Merriman - residential structure.
5. 16137 Oak Tree Lane - residential structure.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-321

3B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to schedule a public hearing August 23, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. on the amended application for Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate Transfer from Omega Industries to Aerostar Manufacturing, to be held in the City of Romulus Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-322

4A.Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to adopt a memorial resolution for the Eddie Beanum family.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Prybyla to accept the Chairman’s Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-323

5A. Motion by Miller, supported by Wadsworth to grant overhead easement right-of-way to Detroit Edison for property described as: Lots 95, 98 and 99 of Applewood Subdivision No. 1, T3 S, R9E, L93, P 100 WCR.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-324

5B. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Prybyla to schedule a Study Session on August 2, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Bid 03/04-37 Energy and Operational/Conservation Program and HVAC System Maintenance.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

5C. Comcast Cable Representative, explained to Council why Romulus Senior Citizens lost their Senior Citizen Discounts.

04-325

6A1. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to adopt the following resolution approving submission of a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the expansion of the Romulus Historical Park from Goddard Road west of Moore Street south to Bibbins street:

City of Romulus
Resolution No. 04-325

The follow Preamble and Resolution were offered by Wadsworth and supported by Burcroff.

- Whereas,** The City Council of the City of Romulus adopted a Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2003-2008) in January 2003, which sets forth several project to meet the recreation needs of residents; and
- Whereas,** A major objective set forth in the Recreation Master Plan is the expansion ofthe Romulus Historic Park, within the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), including landscaping, walkways, parking, picnic areas and an open air structure as a focal point for events such as parades, festivals, concerts and a farmer’s market; and
- Whereas,** The proposed park plan addresses the recreation needs identified in the Master Plan and implements a major objective of the Recreation Master Plan for the expansion of the Romulus Historical Park between Bibbins Street and Goddard Road; and
- Whereas,** The City Council has determined that it is necessary to seek funding for these improvements from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF); and
- Whereas,** Notice of this meeting has been published in a local newspaper of general circulation indicating the application for a grant from the MDNR for the expansion of the Romulus Historical Park; and
- Whereas,** The public in attendance at this meeting has been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed park improvements and grant application.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE City of Romulus hereby approves submission of a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the purpose of constructing an expanded Romulus Historical Park from Goddard Road west of Moore Street south to Bibbins Street; and authorize Mayor Alan R. Lambert to sign all documents relating to the grant.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the project will be undertaken with local matching funds provided by the City of Romulus Downtown Development Authority in the amount of \$125,000 per the application, if the grant is awarded.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-326

6A2. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to let bids for Demolition List 04-01 to include demolition of any remaining structures and complete removal of all demolition debris, to include removal of trees, brush, or other wild vegetation which may have been pushed to the perimeter of the site.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-327

6A3. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to schedule a Study Session to discuss the Airport Forced Sanitary Sewer Plan on Tuesday, September 7, 2004 at 7:00 p.m., in the City of Romulus Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-328

9. Motion by Miller, supported by Wadsworth to schedule a Study Session to review the City of Romulus Water Shut-off Policy on Monday, September 13, 2004 at 6:30 p.m., in the City of Romulus Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-329

10. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Prybyla to forward a communication to Comcast Cable Company stating the City of Romulus does not support its’ Corporate policy regarding elimination of senior citizen discounts.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-330

11. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to authorize the Treasurer of the City of Romulus to disburse funds as listed in Warrant 04-14 in the grand total amount of Eight Hundred Eighty Three Thousand, Three Hundred Thirty Five Dollars and Fifty Eight Cents (883,335.58).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays.

12. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Prybyla to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held July 26, 2004.

Linda R. Choate
City Clerk

Publish: August 12, 2004

News in brief

Office closed for remodeling

The Secretary of State branch office located at 795 Sumpter Road in Belleville is be closed for remodeling and will re-open on Monday.

When the office reopens, it will be one of only 22 new secretary of state PLUS offices.

The new PLUS offices offer expanded hours on Wednesdays, on-site customer service specialists, convenience and other enhanced service options. In the future, customers will also have the ability to pay by credit card and take advantage of a self-service option for vehicle registration renewal.

During the closure, customers can visit nearby offices located in Romulus at 36608 Goddard, or in Ypsilanti at 2720 Washtenaw.

For more information, visit www.Michigan.gov/sos.

New hall, new chief on agenda

Plymouth Township Trustees are expected to review and consider the design concept plan for the new township hall complex at their regular meeting next Tuesday. The board got their first look at the plan at a work session prior to their July 13 meeting. The plan only shows placement of buildings and landscaping on the property. The board will also make a formal presentation from Randy Maycock, the new township fire chief.

Schools earn high marks

Plymouth-Canton elementary and middle schools are among the top performers in Michigan, according to new "report cards" the state issued last week.

Eleven of the 20 schools received an "A" grade, while a "B" grade was assigned to the remaining nine.

The state based the grades on several indicators of student achievement, though requirements get tougher next year. The grades are part of the state Education YES! accreditation program and also take into account the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) criteria under the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

Full reports are available at the Michigan Dept. of Education website at www.michigan.gov/mde.

High school grades will be available later this fall.

Local nun to be honored

Michigan Catholic Radio will honor Mother Assumpta Long, cofounder and superior of Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, with the Pillar of the Church Award Aug. 19 the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn.

The sisters administer and staff Spiritus Sanctus Academy in Plymouth, as well as other schools in Ann Arbor and Honduras. Their order has grown to 44 members since it was founded in 1997.

Previous Pillar of the Church recipients include Mother Angelica, ; Scott and Kimberley Hahn; Fr. John Hardon, S.J. and Cardinal Adam Maida.

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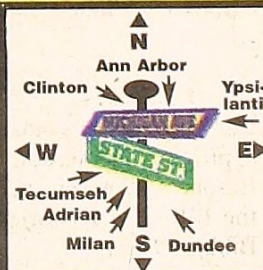
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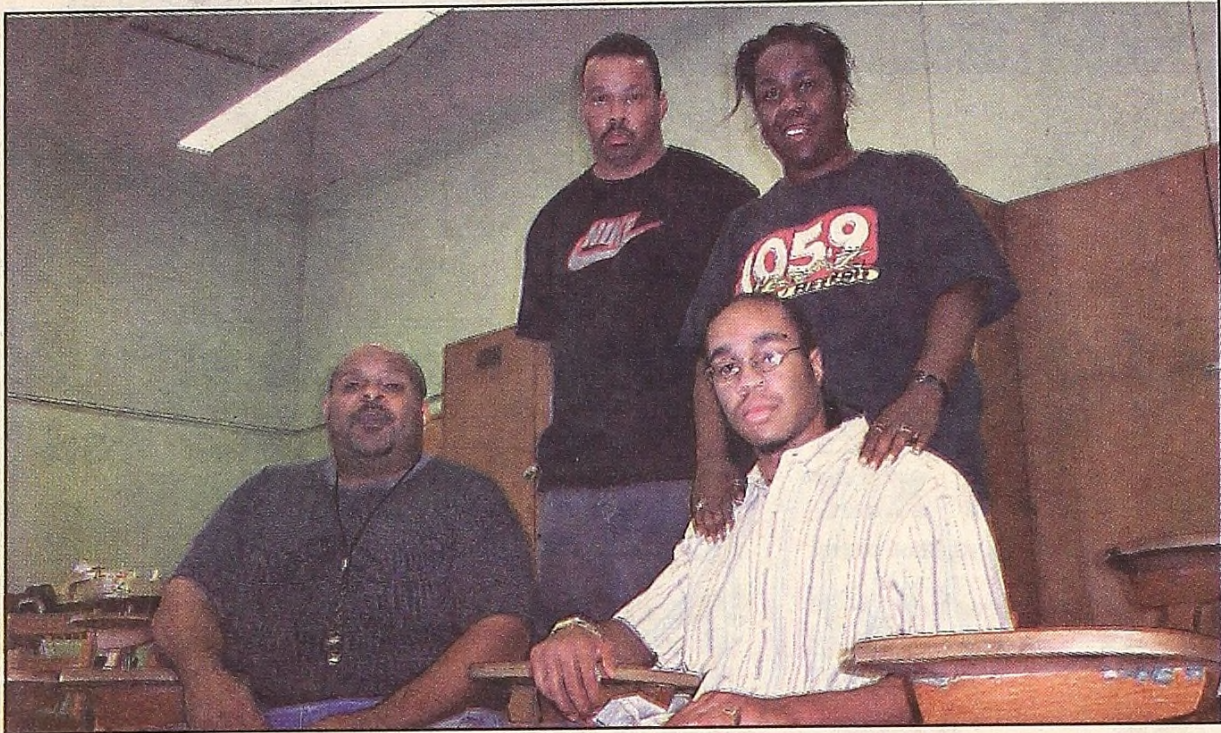


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SPORTS



Brandon Roots recently signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Notre Dame College in Cleveland OH, on a full scholarship. Inkster varsity basketball head coach Gerald Pascal (left) and Roots parents Kenneth and Cornelia were present at the signing.

Inkster hoopster heads to Notre Dame

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Inkster hoopster Brandon Roots signed a letter of intent on July 28 to play ball at Notre Dame on a full scholarship.

Although he won't be headed toward the big University of Notre Dame in Indiana, he will still get a chance to start at the collegiate level at the Cleveland campus of Notre Dame College, which could still land him his ultimate goal of playing in the NBA.

Roots secured the scholarship after only one year of varsity basketball at Inkster and only one year of junior varsity at Westland, John Glenn.

His hard work and dedication to the game is what earned him the scholarship, according to his Inkster basketball coach Gerald Pascal.

"At first I wasn't sure he was even going to make the team at all," Pascal said. "And then he said he wanted to get a scholarship for college. To be honest, I just kind of chuckled."

But Roots made the cut and went on to average 10 points and two steals a game. He also battled hard on the boards and averaged eight rebounds per game, according to Pascal.

"He's one of those kids that picks up everything you show him," he said. "He's a great team player with good footwork. He does all of the little things, the fundamentals, that coaches look for."

Basketball wasn't the only thing at which he worked hard. With a 3.9 grade point average, education was an important factor in Roots' decision to go to Notre Dame College.

"I feel real proud of myself," he said about achieving the scholarship. "Education was important in my decision, just in case I couldn't play basketball."

He plans to study mechanical engineering at the college. Basketball, education or both, his

parents couldn't be more proud—but they said they left the decision up to him.

"He lives, breathes and eats basketball," said his mother, Cornelia Roots. "But, education was up to him. He had several choices, Bowling Green, Notre Dame...he's a bright young man driven for more. I'm proud of him because he's always been that way. He's earned this."

"I let him make his own decision," said his father Kenneth Roots. "(Notre Dame) looked like a good fit. I told him, though, 'The NBA puts food on the table but education keeps food on the table.'"

Although Roots aspires to play in the big league, there are certain NBA stars who could probably learn a thing or two from him. He may be a scholar in the classroom and a warrior on the court but he is quite grounded as a young man, according to his father.

"He's very humble, very laid back and quiet," he said. "He doesn't hang out and get into trouble. He's respectful and very giving."

He's so giving, in fact, that he spent time during the summer as a mentor to Inkster middle school students as a part of a Wayne County Regional Education Service Agency program, Kenneth said.

"I'm proud of him," he said. "I'm going to miss him."

Roots leaves for Cleveland on

Aug. 27 where he will head down a new avenue in his life—one that he and everyone else hopes will lead to bigger and better things, like maybe the NBA.

"We're all very proud of him," Pascal said. "He's everything I want to see in a kid that goes to college."

Whalers sign draft pics

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

With the start of training camp still 3 weeks away, the Plymouth Whalers were able to sign their top two draft picks to add firepower to their line-up.

Mike Vellucci, general manager and head coach of the Whalers said last week that Plymouth signed their two rookie choices from the 2004 Ontario Hockey League (OHL) Priority Selection Draft: centers John Armstrong and Cory Tanaka.

"We like to draft for skill and speed and that's exactly what Armstrong and Tanaka bring to the rink," he said. "Both players are character players who come from winning programs. We think they're both going to be able to contribute right away this year."

The Whalers selected Armstrong, a 6-foot, 2-inch, 170-pound playmaker hailing from Unionville, Ontario, in the first round (13th overall) in the draft last May. He had a solid year last year with the North York Jr. Canadians, where he scored 35 goals with 47 assists for 82 points in 45 games.

Tanaka, of Stouffville, Ontario, was chosen in the second round (24th overall). Many scouts thought the 5-foot, 11-inch, 163-pounder was one of the best skaters in the draft. He scored 28 goals and had 51 assists for 79 points with the Richmond Hill Stars last season.

Armstrong and Tanaka, along with the rest of the Whalers, will report to training camp on Wednesday, Sept. 1 at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township. The Whalers will face their cross-river rivals, the Windsor Spitfires, at home in their first pre-season game at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 4.

The regular season starts Friday, Sept. 24 in Sarnia with their first home game Saturday, Sept. 25 against interstate rivals the Saginaw Spirit.

Whalers sign with CKWW 580-AM for the 2004-05 radio broadcasts

Vellucci also said last week the team signed a contract with radio station CKWW 580-AM to broadcast the Whaler games for this season.

According to the contract, all

See Whalers, page 11

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Lady Eagles end summer play, gear up for next varsity season

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Romulus High School varsity girls basketball head coach Rhonda McAllister-Henry is having a busy summer as she tries to prepare her Lady Eagles to seek a third straight Mega White League championship.

Some of her activities this summer included a week-long summer camp at the high school for third through ninth grade students. Many of her varsity players were on hand to help the younger players, she said.

McAllister-Henry also led the Lady Eagles to many victories at camps at the University of

Michigan and Toledo University. She also led the team to numerous victories in the Plymouth-Canton summer league.

McAllister-Henry, named Metro-west Coach of the Year last year, was also the coach for Southeastern Michigan AAU under-16 Girls All-Star team this year. The team, which featured three of her varsity players, Ashley Sibby, Paris Hawkins and Janiece Armstrong, won the state AAU tournament and advanced to the national finals in Memphis, TN. The team included players from Anchor Bay, Walled Lake, Livonia and Bay City.

At the national tournament, the team finished with a 2-2

record in pool play, according to McAllister. In the final bracket they won their first game but fell in the second to a strong Chicago All-Star team, she said.

"There were quite a few college coaches in attendance and several were impressed by members of our team," she said.

Armstrong scored, 23 points in one game; Hawkins scored 21 in another and Sibby was a solid leader throughout the tournament, she said.

"These young ladies have dedicated themselves to becoming the best they can be all summer long," she said.

After the tournament the Lady Eagles had one week off before



Coach Rhonda McAllister-Henry (left) with her under-16 AAU team that won the Michigan Championship and went 3-3 at the national tournament in Tennessee. Members of the team included: (front row) Erica Yost, Livonia Ladywood and Jasmine Speck, Anchor Bay; (back row) Jessica Knurick, Walled Lake Northern; Janiece Armstrong, Romulus; Jamie Rhodes, Livonia Ladywood; Ashley Sibby, Romulus; Paris Hawkins, Romulus and Amanda Griffin, Bay City Central.

they started conditioning drills Aug. 2.

The team will start their season with four straight home games, starting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 26.

Whalers - Plymouth adds fire power, speed to line up with draft pics Armstrong, Tanaka

FROM PAGE 11

68 regular season and subsequent playoff games will be aired on 580-AM, starting with the season opener at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 24 in Sarnia. However, the preseason games will not be aired.

"We're excited to join CKWW," Vellucci said. "580-Memories has made it into the Top 20 ratings in the Detroit radio market. Our fan base continues to grow. We want to give them every opportunity to listen to the games, especially when

we're on the road or they can't make our home games at the Compuware Sports Arena."

Long-time Whalers' voice Pete Krupsky returns as Plymouth play-by-play man and will be joined by Sean Baligian.

CKWW was the Whalers' first radio partner when the team was formed in 1990-91 and was known as the Detroit Compuware Ambassadors, playing out of Cobo Arena in Detroit.

"CKWW knows hockey and the Ontario Hockey League," said Rob Murphy, director of cor-

porate sales and marketing for the Whalers. "Critical in our decision making was the need to find a quality radio partner that will broadcast all 68 games plus playoffs uninterrupted to our fan base in western Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw counties. The staff at CKWW, in particular Eric Proksch, vice-president and general manager; Charlie O'Brien, CKWW program director; and Keith Chinnery, CKWW program director expressed a genuine and sincere interest in helping meet the needs of our growing

fan base."

Plymouth games were broadcast for the last three seasons on WDXD 1310-AM, along with their sister station WDFN 1130-AM.

The Whalers enjoyed an increase in attendance during that time and now average more than 3,100 fans per game at the Compuware Sports Arena, according to Krupsky, who is also the Whalers' media contact.

The inconsistent WDXD signal at night could not be heard in all areas of the Whalers' core market—Plymouth, Canton Township, Livonia, Northville and Novi—causing complaints among the Whaler fans and the desire to explore the opportunity for other radio partners for the upcoming season, he said.

"We appreciate everything that Rona Danziger, WDXD program director and her staff did for us," said Vellucci. "We enjoyed three good seasons with them. In moving to CKWW, we're trying to give out fans a better chance to listen to the games."

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Wolves win World Series event

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The WaCo Wolves finished out the summer season with a giant win at the Continental Amateur Baseball Association (CABA) World Series last week.

The 9U travel baseball team represents the southeast Wayne County including Canton and Westland.

The tournament started out rocky when the Wolves lost their first two games against the Brecksville, OH Bees and the Lebanon, OH Kings.

In the first game the Wolves were off to a fast start and scored four runs in the first inning but the Bees overcame the Wolves in to go into the final inning in the lead, 10-6. The wolves came through with six runs in the final frame of play but it wasn't meant to be as the Bees got a two-out single in the bottom of the sixth to win the game 13-12, according to Wolves' coach Art Cameron.

Jared Terrill was the starting pitcher for the Wolves and Daniel Cameron's three RBI led their offense. Cody Cowart offered a double and two RBI and Brady Hardin and Terrill had two singles each in the effort. Tyler Finkler scored three runs as Jake Keeley, Kyle Gaines, Hardin and Terrill scored two times each.

The Wolves fell behind early in the second game against the Kings. After two innings they were down 11-2 but rallied back to a 13-9 score after four innings. They couldn't narrow the gap any further and dropped the game, 15-10. Hardin led the offense with a double, triple and two runs scored. Brad Connochie added three singles and an RBI and one run scored, said Cameron.

The Wolves bounced back in their third game against the OTYA Shockers out of

Indiana. They hopped out to a 3-1 lead after the opening frame and coasted to their first World Series victory, 10-2, Cameron said. Jake Keeley led the way from the mound with seven strikeouts and only allowed four hits. Cowart led the offense with two singles, a triple, two RBI and three runs scored. Daniel Cameron offered a single, a double, two RBI and a run scored. Keeley and Gaines each scored two runs.

The Wolves' good fortune and good play continued when they mercied the All Stars team out of Munster, IN., 15-0. They took a 6-0 lead after two innings, said Cameron, and added nine more in the third to put the game away.

Justin Aviles earned the win from the mound. He pitched a four-hitter and struck out three batters. Terrill hit the only Wolves' homerun of the tournament along with a single, two runs scored and two RBI to lead the offense. Hardin contributed with a single, double, two runs scored and two RBI. Daniel Cameron also had two singles, two RBI and scored twice and Keeley score twice, according to Cameron.

The Wolves finished pool play with a 2-2 record and entered the championship round the following day as the third seed.

Their first scheduled game of the round was a rematch against the Shockers. There, they cruised to a 10-2 four-inning mercy. Cowart earned the victory with relief help from Finkler. Keeley and Gaines led the offense with two singles each, two runs score and three RBI between the two of them, Cameron said.

The Victory put them up against the number-one seed the Brecksville Bees. The tight game was knotted 2-2 after two frames of play but the Wolves rallied four runs in the fifth inning to run away with the 7-4 win. Terrill was the starting and winnig



The WaCo Wolves, an under-9 baseball team that represents southeast Wayne County, recently won the Continental Amateur Baseball Association World Series.

pitch. He pitched three innings and gave up two runs on four hits while he struck out three batters. Aviles finished out the job from the hill. Jacob McCulloch led the offense with a single, a double and two runs scored and Finkler helped with a single and a key two-out two-run triple in the fifth inning, Cameron said.

The Wolves met the Kings in a match up of the final two remaining unbeaten teams in the championship round. That didn't stop the Wolves as they breezed to a 12-0 victory. Hardin pitched a no-hitter and was one batter above the minimum, according to Cameron. Terrill had two singles, an RBI and two runs scored while Daniel Cameron had a single, a double and an RBI. McCulloch added a single, two RBI and a walk-off two-run double in the third to end the game, Cameron said.

The Wolves weren't done with the Kings yet as the two teams paired up for the final championship game. The Wolves came out swinging and took an 8-2 lead after two innings of play. The Kings attempted to rally runs in but the Wolves held them at

bay to secure the 14-9 victory. Cowart earned the win from the mound while Tyler Glenfield led the hitting attack with three single, two RBI and one run scored. Connochie added a single, double and one run scored; Terrill had a triple, two RBI and two runs scored; Cowart added a single, triple and two RB; and Gaines added two singles and scored twice, according to Cameron.

The CABA World Series win capped off an incredible season for the Wolves who also went 15-0 in league play in the All American Baseball Association and earned the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) Michigan State Championship. They won the Ivor James Memorial Tournament and placed second at the Memorial Day Super National Invitational Tournament. They were also runner-up at the Sylvania Mavericks 4th of July National Invitational Tournament.

In the end, according to Cameron, they finished with a 52-9 overall record for the season and outscored their opponents 822-314.

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OBITUARIES

FURNISS, Tyler James

Tyler James Furniss, the newborn infant son of David Wharton and Catherine Lynn (Weiss) Furniss of Belleville died Aug. 2.

In addition to his parents, the infant is survived by his paternal grandparents, David Furniss of Grandville and Connie (Ron) West, also of Grandville; his maternal grandparents, Bob Wilkenson of Fowlerville and Judy (Leonard) Boos of Bayville, NJ.; his great-grandmother Josephine Wilkenson of Farmington; uncles, Doug (Dina) Furniss of Jenison, Joe (Kim) Wilkenson of Redford and Bob (Wendy) Wilkenson of Grayling; an aunt, Debbie (Jack) Cook of Jenison, and siblings, Andrea, Ryan and Laura Furniss, Patrick and Courtney Weise, and Devan, Megan and Morgan Furniss, all of Belleville.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

PINTER, Ronny D.

Ronny D. Pinter, 46, of Ypsilanti, formerly of Belleville, died Aug. 2.

Among his survivors are his wife, Pamela G. Flucks; children, Crystal Pinter, Jason Pinter and Kristin Pinter, all of Belleville; 11 nieces and nephews; several cousins; brothers, Harry "Doc" Pinter, Joe (Alice) Pinter, Bob (Diana) Pinter, and Larry (Simone) Pinter, all of Belleville; a sister, Debbie (Skip) Blackmore of Saline; his first wife, Rosemary Pinter, and Julie Peterson of Belleville, who was like a mother to him.

Mr. Pinter was vice-president of Pinter Flowerland and co-owner and operator of Pinter Greenhouse and Properties. He was a member of the Detroit Metropolitan Flower Grower Association.

He was a 1975 graduate of Belleville High School.

Funeral services were at the David C.

Brown Funeral Home with the Rev. Tom Burdette officiating.

Interment was Hillside Cemetery in Belleville.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

FARR, Minnie Frances

Minnie Frances Farr, 71, of Ypsilanti, died July 29.

Among her survivors are her daughter, Carmen A. Farr of Belleville; several sisters and brothers, and grandchildren, Marion E. Thomas and Marlo E. Thomas, both of Belleville.

Mrs. Farr was a graduate of Hampton University and earned her masters degree at Indiana University. She was the director of Wayne County Community College Child Care Center.

Funeral services were at the Crown Hill Funeral Home in Indianapolis, IN and interment was at Crown Hill Cemetery, also in Indianapolis.

Local arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

MCCLAY, Kenneth D.

Kenneth D. McClay, 69, of Belleville, formerly of Allen Park, died Aug. 7.

Among his survivors are his wife of nearly 30 years, Elizabeth L. "Betty" (Koharchiak) McClay; sons, James A. (Suzy) McClay of Ypsilanti Township and John D. McClay of Allen Park; a brother, Marvin (Blanche) McClay of Livonia; a dear friend, Vicki (Michael) Gleason of Brownstown Township, and five grandchildren.

Mr. McClay served in the U.S. Army and attained the rank of lieutenant.

Funeral services were at David C. Brown Funeral Home with Dr. John N. Grenfell III officiating.

Interment was at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville.

SMITH, Roger William

Roger William Smith, 40, of Carleton, formerly of Sumpter Township, died Aug. 7.

Among his survivors are his children, Alishia Belcher of Willis, Andrea Becker of Texas, Roger W. Smith, Jr. and Capriana "Cappy" Smith of Ypsilanti; brothers, Elmer Smith of Inkster, Russell Smith of Belleville and Matthew (Corinne) Smith of Jerome; a sister, Eva (Barry) Edge of Dallas TX; his mother, Virginia Mae (Robak) Smith of Irving, TX, and a grandchild.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with the Rev. Robert J. White officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

THOROLD, Lynn Cheryl

Lynn Cheryl Thorold, 55, formerly of Clinton, died July 29.

Among her survivors are her children, Tracey Housewright, Ricki Overdorf and David Housewright; her parents, Lionel and Esther Thorold; sisters, Karen Knapp and Sharon Helzerman, and a brother, Scoop Thorold.

Arrangements were entrusted to Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Flat Rock.

REIMAN, Helen Martha

Helen Martha Reiman, 81, a 60-year resident of Belleville, died Aug. 9.

Among her survivors are her children, Barbara J. (Richard) Savage of Belleville, Walter J. (Catherine) Mientkiewicz of White Cloud and Carol A. (Donald) Voikofsky of Belleville; 18 grandchildren; 43 great-grandchildren, and 19 great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Reiman was a member of St.

Anthony Catholic Church where a funeral mass was celebrated by Father Alexander J. Wytrwal.

Interment of her cremains was at Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery in Bridgeport.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

WALKER, James N.

James N. Walker, 37, of Ypsilanti, died April 27.

Among his survivors are his wife, Carmen; children, James, Jovon, Nikia and Vanessa; his mother, Anita; his stepfather, Robert; grandmothers, Grace and Sudie; a brother, and three sisters.

Funeral servies were at New Providence Baptist Church of Detroit with the Rev. Everett Jennings officiating.

Interment was at Mt. Hope Memorial Park in Livonia.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home in Inkster.

LUCAS, Randell

Randell Lucas, 35, of Huntington, IN died July 31.

Among his survivors are his mother and stepfather, Jason and Connie Funkhouser Morgan of Huntington, IN; a daughter, Whitney Lucas and a stepdaughter, Kira Smith both of Huntington IN; sisters, Theresa Easterday of Huntington, IN and Glenda Lucas of Wayne, and three brothers, Michael Clabaugh and Joshua Clabaugh Jr both of Huntington, IN, and Ronald Lucas of Wayne, and his former wife, Rhonda Lucas, also of Huntington, IN.

A memorial service was at the Markle Church of Christ on Aug. 7 with the Rev. Nathen Palmer officiating.

Arrangements were entrusted to the McElhaney-hart Funeral Home in Huntington, IN.

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THE SCENE

COLLATERAL

Cruise is a convincing killer
but Foxx steals the summer film

Director Michael Mann does for Los Angeles in his latest thriller *Collateral* what author Don DeLillo did for New York in his book *Cosmopolis*.

Mann shows off a dark and twisted side of the City of Angels where actual coyotes roam the streets and wolves that wear tailored suits and carry 9-millimeter pistols stalk in the shadows.

Like DeLillo, Mann uses a compressed amount of time to tell the story. DeLillo uses one day to show the fall of one man while Mann uses one night to change the lives of two individuals.

Max (Jamie Foxx), a night-shift taxi driver, collides head on with the life of Vincent (Tom Cruise), a silver-haired contract killer—the one fare that Max probably wishes he hadn't picked up.

After dropping off the beautiful United States Attorney Annie Farrell (Jada Pinkett Smith) at her office, Max nearly misses out on picking up Vincent. But he does, forever changing his mundane life.

Vincent offers Max a large sum of money to take him to five stops so he can "take care of some business." Max, leery at first, accepts the deal and the wheels are set in motion.

At the first stop, Max receives a rude awakening when one of Vincent's "friends" falls three stories onto the roof of his cab. He puts two and two together and realizes his predicament as does Vincent who, in light of his mistake, has to improvise and take Max hostage in order to continue his hunt.

The back-story that leads us to this one night unfolds as the night continues. An offshore drug-trafficking cartel has discovered that some of their operatives are about to be indicted in Los Angeles.

They hire the best contract killer on the market, Vincent, to kill the five key witnesses. The plans are set and all Vincent has to do is his job and finish before the trial starts in the morning.

Max becomes a hostage in his

See Film, page 15

Reviewed By
Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

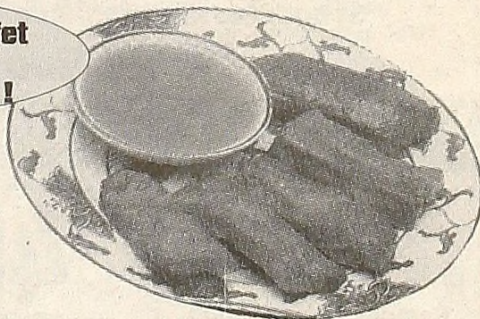
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THE SCENE

Description dampens action in latest alphabet adventure

Note to author Sue Grafton:
Nobody in 1987 said "my bad" in conversation. Nobody in 1987 used "bootie" as a generally accepted slang reference—well, not middle-class white women, anyway.

And while we're being candid, you should already know avid mystery fans do not care to read long, long, long descriptive passages about the best route from one section of California to another or from California to Reno, NV. Readers do not particularly care that Route 5 is faster or where one highway intersects another unless it has something to do with the plot. When it doesn't, people do not care and the details are pretty, well, boring.

Having said all that, let's move on.

Legions of fans are welcoming the latest installment of Grafton's Kinsey Millhone series *R is for Ricochet* with great enthusiasm, passion and loyalty. Grafton has created a genuine, believable, down-to-earth heroine in Kinsey. She isn't a cardboard cutout, a tough guy wanna-be or an infallible martial arts expert. She's a flawed, failed and typical human being with reactions most readers understand. She gets involved

Book Review
R is for Ricochet
Sue Grafton

with real people, too, not bizarre, over-the-top comic foils or menacing, genius psycho serial killers. Her villains are as real as her heroine and her stock in trade is believability.

So when the reality readers have come to expect and value from Kinsey is impacted by chronological errors of speech, it is somewhat disconcerting. And when the long-winded travelogues better suited for a road map or Atlas seem to interfere with the action in Kinsey's latest adventure, well, fans get a little testy.

But that hasn't stopped them from buying and reading the latest in this alphabet series.

Because, despite all the kvetching, *R* is as good as the rest of the series. This time out, it is, as previously mentioned, the year 1987, and Kinsey is hired by an octogenarian millionaire, Nord Lafferty, to transport his 32-year-old daughter home from prison where she has been paroled after serving 22 months of a 4 year sentence for embezzlement. Hey, \$500 a day,

plus expenses in 1987 was a pretty good deal, no wonder Kinsey jumps on it. She has bills to pay.

And all goes well...briefly. Reba Lafferty is headstrong, down-to-earth, incorrigible and charming. While under her considerable influence, however, Kinsey finds herself running afoul of the law in ways she'd usually not even consider. Readers familiar with Kinsey will know full well she isn't above bending the law until it is ready to snap—but in Reba's company, she could get in some serious legal trouble. And that's because the FBI, the DEA, the justice department, and about four other federal agencies want to turn Reba into a confidential informant in their attempts to prosecute her former boss. Problem is, she went to jail for the man, thinks she's in love with him and rekindled their "romance" her first night out of jail.

Kinsey is in the thick of it as she's been arbitrarily assigned to represent all these federal agents and convince Reba to help them.

Further complicating the situation is that, after all these books, and failed attempts, it appears Kinsey may have found the man of her (and every other woman's) dreams. Unfortunately, he's rep-



resenting one of the agencies preparing the case against Reba's former boss and current lover. And when Kinsey's less-than-legal antics jeopardize the legitimacy of the evidence, well...it could be a real detriment to her love life.

Kinsey's landlord, 87-year-old Henry, is having love troubles, too. Just about everybody in this book is—the *R* really would be better suited for romance than ricochet, but let's not quibble.

This is a fine adventure mystery and fans will appreciate every word—except those annoying dialogue anachronisms that threaten to ruin the atmosphere Grafton seems to have so carefully crafted. And the loooooonggg directions and travelogues will wear on readers' patience, too.

For those who have never met Kinsey, this novel is an OK start—but she is far better and more entertaining when met in *A is for Alibi* and enjoyed in sequence, all the way to *R is for Ricochet*.

Highly recommended.

Film

FROM PAGE 14

own cab as the endless game of cat and mouse continues. Mann takes us through a dirty and seedy city that Vincent said is "disconnected" and Max calls home. At one point, though, Max almost appears to accept the task set forth by Vincent and embrace the change of events. The final hit isn't really a shocker but the tension builds as Max tries to prevent it.

Although *Collateral* is predictable, it was nice to see a change of pace for Cruise. He plays not only a villain but an outright psychopath. The star of the movie, however, is Foxx who stole the show.

Mann also does an excellent job showing the audience the true Los Angeles with its moody landscapes of palm trees and eerie lighting. He reportedly shot the entire film digitally, which would be the first time that has ever been done for a major motion picture. He said in the press materials that he used digital in order to see everything the naked eye can see and more. And it shows.

Collateral is, at best, mediocre. It's hard to be tough on an average movie since even a mediocre movie is better than most of the films released this summer. However, it's not worthy of more than a matinee ticket.



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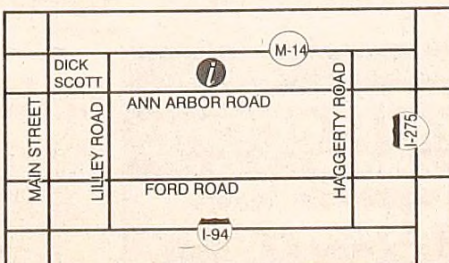


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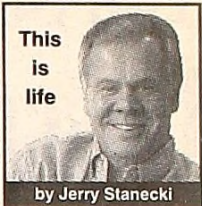
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Life is not always what it appears to be



Nelly, the housekeeper for a friend of mine, insisted on getting a new Cadillac Escalade even though she clearly couldn't afford it. But, she wanted it. Nelly went to a payroll loan place and borrowed \$5,000 for the down payment.

Fortunately, Nelly's employer, let's call him Jim, cared enough about her to insist that she return the loan money, which she would have spent years paying off at high interest rates.

Jim made arrangements for a recent model Honda SUV. He told Nelly to consider the vehicle hers; he would pay for it, the insurance and gasoline. All she had to do was take care of it.

Nelly looked at it and said, "That's nice, but it's not an Escalade."

When she didn't get what she wanted, Nelly essentially said, "I'll show you," I'll hurt me. She did so by abusing the SUV and the generosity behind the gift.

"I started noticing little dents and dings on the car," Jim told me. "In about two months, Nelly had been so indifferent to the vehicle that there was about \$2,000 worth of damage to it. That's when I said enough."

We want what we want when we want it, regardless of the cost or consequences.

For most of us, our needs are met daily. Our wants get us in trouble.

Food, shelter, enough money for the day—those are needs. Gas guzzling SUV

or \$5,000 plasma screen television because the neighbor has one—are wants.

A newspaper headline claimed we were partly at fault for high gas prices. Absolutely true. Our keeping up with the Jones, vanity and diseased ego-driven lives are the driving force. Americans are followers. How many SUVs were sold in 1990? Gas prices go up, and we complain.

Most vehicle manufacturers in Europe build small cars. Most people drive small vehicles and don't cave in to the "I want" syndrome.

Tell someone that bottled water at a buck or so a bottle is simply tap water and they laugh. Gullible Americans believe bottled water is better. I smile when I think of how many people buying bottled water reacted, when I explained to them if it doesn't say "spring water" on the label it's out-of-the-faucet water.

A friend took a part time job driving a cab. One evening he picked up a nun. As he drove he kept staring at her in the rear view mirror until she asked what was the matter.

"I've always wanted to kiss a nun," he said.

"Well, as long as you're single and Catholic," she said "I can't see anything wrong."

"I am, Sister, Catholic and single." She told him to pull over into an alley.

They got out and the nun planted a kiss on him that would make a hooker blush. Back in car, driving he couldn't stand the guilt.

"I must confess, I lied," he said. "I'm Jewish and married."

"That's OK," the nun said. "I'm Kevin, and I'm going to a Halloween party."

Life—it's not always the way it appears.

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 29124 Eton Street • Westland, MI 48186 • 734-326-3833

Sunday School 10 A.M. - Service 11 A.M.
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7:30 P.M.
 Pastor Earl Duncan
Morningstar Church
 28563 Pardo
 Garden City, MI 48135
 734-367-3029

55351 Beverly Rd.
 Romulus, Michigan 48174 • 734-941-2621
Amazing Grace Christian Center Church
 Service Hours
 Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
 Worship 11:00 A.M.
 Pastor C.L. Nesbitt
 Everyone is Welcome to Come

DRIVERS We have jobs waiting for you! Call 1-888-550-4947 and let us train you to get behind the wheel of your new career today! wmcsl.com

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NEED JOB? "No Experience Needed" CRST Now Hiring Trainees in Your Area. \$600-\$900/wk. No Out Of Pocket Expense. Trane Pay Available. 1-877-443-8292

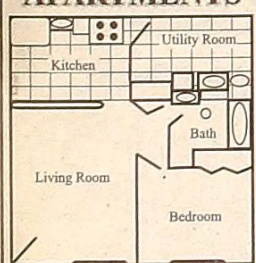
DRIVERS: CFI - REGIONAL RUNS AVAILABLE for Company Drivers & Owner Operators in the Midwest & Northeast. Also Hiring OTR. Company-O/O-Solos-Teams. 1-800-CFI-DRIVE www.cfidrive.com

REACH 3.5 MILLION Michigan readers with a 2 x 2 display ad for only \$949 - Contact this newspaper for details.

Call 734-467-1900 to place your classified ad.

89. Apts. for rent

PRINCETON COURT APARTMENTS



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SHORT TERM LEASES AVAILABLE 1ST Month \$199

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Plymouth

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89. Apartments For Rent

Belmont Manor apartments

ONE MONTH FREE RENT!

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105. Mobile Homes For Sale

Westland Meadows Mobile Home Community

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56. Garage Sales

ROMULUS
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8/12-8/14 9-6
Wayne and Wick Rd.

WAYNE
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Appliances, furniture, dishes, toys, clothes, and much more!
8/12-14 and 8/19-21 9-5
32077 Carlisle
2 blocks S. of Michigan Ave., off Merriman

59. Auctions

Notice of Public Sale, pursuant to State Law, a sale will be held on August 24, 2004 @ 1:00 PM on the following units:
B31 = Christopher Zamora: Computers, Stove, Vacuum, Golf Clubs, Boxes
J13 = Bruce McDermott: Copy Machine, Furniture, Tools, Boxes
J40 = Daniel Cottrell: Yamaha Wave Runner, Triton Trailer, Weights, Bed, Boxes
I3 = Kimberly Wright-Windom: Boxes, furniture, steamer, stereo, picture frames
America's Budget Storage
40671 Joy Rd
Canton, MI 48187

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction on August 18, 2004 at 1:00 PM.:
Dalton Towing 27218 Currier
Dearborn Heights, MI 48125
313-299-9727
1992 Plymouth

2 Door
3P3XP6433NT352291
1986 Chevrolet
4 Door
2G1AW19X7G1236211
1992 Ford
2 Door
1FAPP6044NH138591
1998 Saturn
4 Door
1G8ZK5273WZ150322
Ninja
MotorCycle
BY009612
1986 Mercury
4 Door
2MEBP95FXFX608722
1990 Ford
Station Wagon
1FACP55U3LG180612
1993 Dodge
4 Door
2B3ED56TXPH563072
1986 Oldsmobile
4 Door
1G3NT69U0GM374813
1991 Chevrolet
2 Door
2G1WL14T6M9125603
Dodge
Mobile Home
M40CA5S103583
1989 Ford
4 Door
1FABP50U5KG178183
1985 Chevrolet
Station Wagon
1G1BN35H1FX177353
1990 Volkswagen
2 Door
WVWMA21G9LW554905
1990 Ford
4 Door
1FAPP36X7LK173965
1991 Oldsmobile
4 Door
2G3AJ54N8M2353496
1996 Chevrolet

4 Door
1G1JC524XT7109336
1986 Lincoln
4 Door
1LNB96f4GY669416
1991 Ford
2 Door
KNJPT06H6M6111736
1991 Ford
4 Door
1FMDU34X0MUC65347
1988 Nissan
4 Door
JN1HU11P4JT602492
1994 Dodge
4 Door
1B3AP68K4RN102007
1991 Chrysler
4 Door
1C3XC66R2MD161077
1994 Ford
Station Wagon
1C3XC66R2MD161077
1990 Lincoln
4 Door
1LNCM9743LY772668
1992 Ford
2 Door
1FAPP31X4NK150489
1990 Chrysler
2 Door
1C3XJ453XLG465259
1996 Chevrolet
2 Door
2G1FP22K7T2148979
1999 Chrysler
2C3HE66G0XH791619

1990 Honda
4 Door
1HGCB765XLA002440
1998 Ford
Station Wagon
1FMYU22E4WUC47160
1987 Honda
2 Door
JHMB6222HC007080

1989 Geo
2 Door
J81RF2179K7505070
1992 Chevrolet
4 Door
1G1BN53E3NW152690
1992 Plymouth
Station Wagon
2P4GH2530NR537580
TRAILER
1981 Crownline
Boat
MC8635AE
1991 Chevrolet
2 Door
1G1LV13G9MY211923
1982 Mercury
2 Door
1MEBP6329CT607553
1993 Mercury
4 Door
2MELM75W8PX661325
1989 Chevrolet
Pick Up
2GCEC19H3K1116800
1978 Chevrolet
4 Door
1N69U81168832
1994 Chevrolet
2 Door
1G1JC14T1R7167549

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On August 17, 2004 the Westland Police Department will conduct public auctions of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1972 Buick Riviera
2 Door-Blue
4Y87U2H904507
1972 Pontiac
2 Door-Brown/Yellow
2D37M2P107732
1989 Honda CRX
2 Door-Silver
JHMD8452KS019315

The second auction will begin promptly at 11:00a.m. at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

Alloy
Boat Trailer-Blue
None
1978 Suzuki 750
Motorcycle-Black
GS750E15116
1986 Mercury Cougar
2 Door-White
1MEBP9236GH723426
1992 Ford Escort
4 Door-Green
1FAPP14J0NW174888
1987 Buick Century
4 Door-Brown
1G4AL51W5HT463883
1999 Lincoln Continental
White
1LNHM97V4XY609533
1996 Ford Taurus
4 Door-Red
1FALP53S0TG141963
1991 Toyota Camry
4 Door-White

4T1VV21E0MU041395
1990 Chevrolet Astro
Station Wagon-Black/Grey
1GBDM15Z1LB203155
1996 Chrysler Sebring
2 Door-Black
4C3AU52N6TE294304

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

61. Misc. Items

2 End Tables
w/ storage. Slate
top. \$30 each.
1 Octagon Maple
Coffee Table
with beveled glass
inserts. \$30
248-349-0228

Solid Oak
Octagon Table
w/ slate top,
4 captain chairs,
and extension leaf.
Cost new \$1,200.
Must sell-only \$90
Novi-248-349-0228

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Company in Michigan
800-292-0679.

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Tom Lynch • Manager Also in Livonia
Jim Henley • Director & Redford

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65. Tree Service

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Tree, Shrub, & Stump
Removal. Tree Trimming,
24 years experience.

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87. Rooms For Rent

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Motel, low daily and
weekly rates.
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\$400, plus half utilities.
Must live with dog.
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734-377-3620

88. Duplexes For Rent

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call for list of
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89. Apartments For Rent

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\$495
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included.
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734-728-4346

96. Houses For Rent

Gorgeous Home
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2 car garage
Appliances included,
Central air,
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\$1050/month
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5 acres
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3 Bed 1 bath,
newly remodeled.
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basement, option
to buy. \$650
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ROMULUS

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pets ok \$650

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appliances,
fenced for pets
\$850

Many other
cities available

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WAYNE

Available now,
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fenced. \$750

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4 Bed, appliances,
fenced for pets \$850

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WESTLAND

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all appliances \$775
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105. Mobile Homes-Lots

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Modular Home. I-275
& Ecorse Rd. 18' x 80'.
3 Bed, 2 full Baths.
Stove, refrigerator,
dishwasher,
washer/dryer,
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\$20,000 OBO.
Must Sell. Call Kim @
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106. Houses For Sale

Open House
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Colonial, with new
amenities, including
kitchen, carpet,
furnace, air conditioning,
and windows. Fireplace,
Garage,
All appliances stay.
Asking \$189,900

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Westland Sun 8/15
12-4
Asking 134,900
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Custom built log home on
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with sitting area & balcony,
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118. Freebies

Wanted: All Misc.
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Will take only if wanted.
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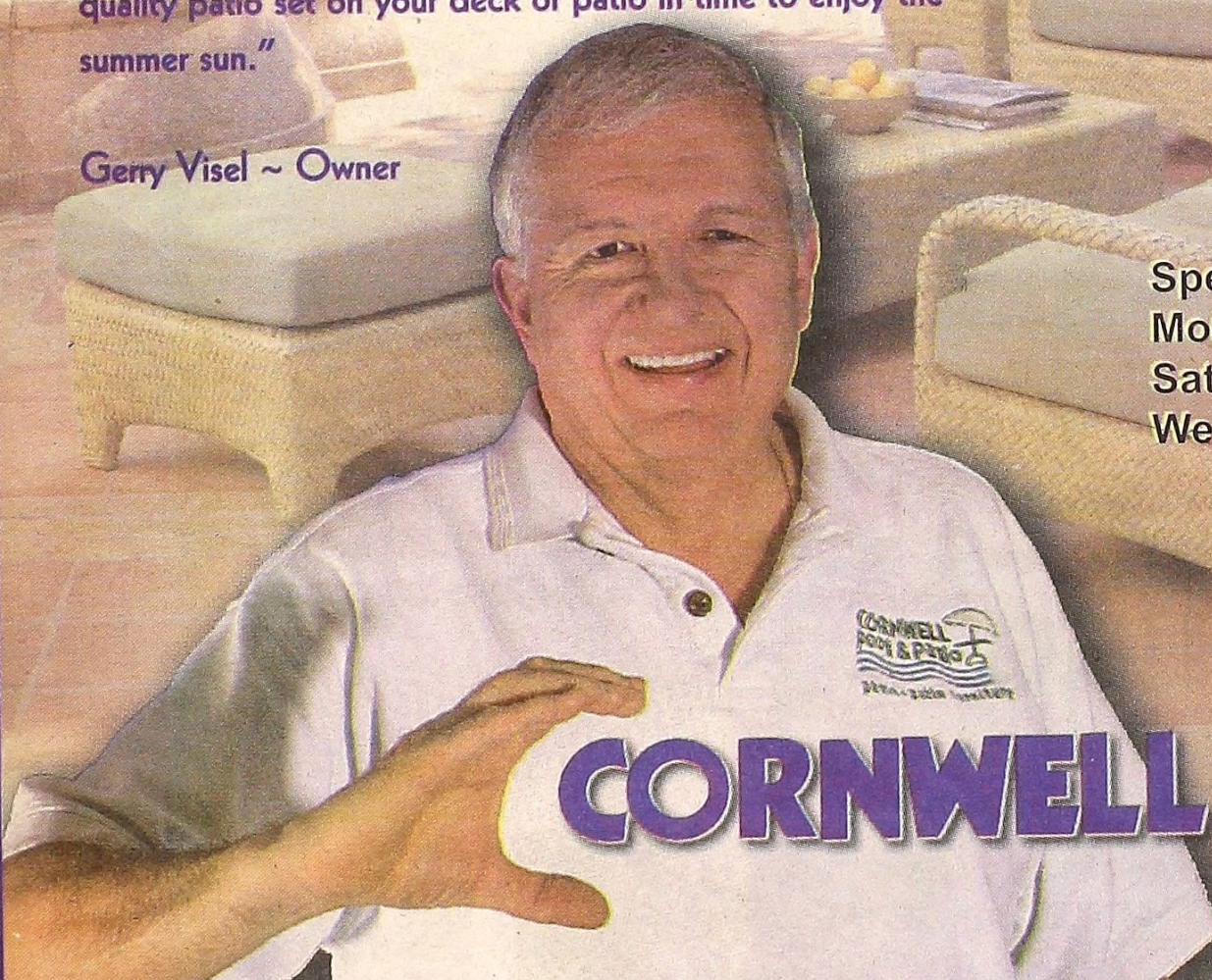
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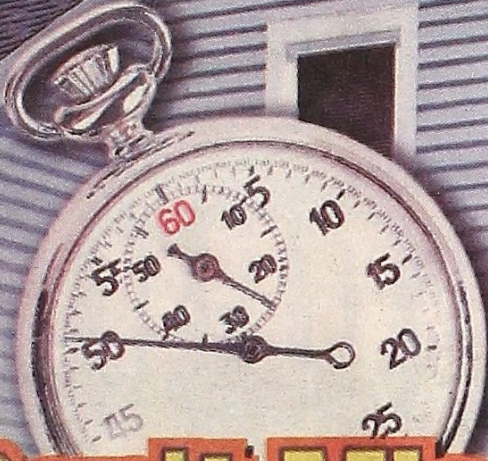
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